

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Kindly replace paragraph 0008 with the following amended paragraph:

[0008] To avoid the initiation and minimize the spreading towards the tread reinforcement of breaks at the bottom of the transverse grooves of an off-the-road tire, French Patent No. 2,388,685 (corresponding to U.S. Patent ~~4,1904,548~~ 4,194,548) proposes the arrangement, in the ungrooved portion between the bottoms of grooves and the crown reinforcement, of at least one ply of cables with low extensibility (steel cables with a relative elongation smaller than 0.5% under a tensile force equal to 10% of the breaking load), the inclination of the said cables relative to the circumferential direction being less than 30° and preferably between 12 and 24°, and the radial distance between the groove bottoms and the said ply of cables being less than but close to one-third of the radial distance between the groove bottoms and the crown ply nearest the tread. Such a structure does not protect against cuts and their spreading, and has a very adverse effect on the resistance of the tire's crown to the shocks imposed by the rapid aggression of large obstacles.